

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Yale Cantor at 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Yale Cantor, Melinda Ferry,, Helen Filloramo, Anne Nickerson, Sue Stack, Doris Crayton.

OTHERS PRESENT-INTRODUCTION: Hocene Baouche, Miriam Underwood perspective Human Services Commission members, and Ashlyn Haracsy, a senior at Ellington High School. Ms. Haracsy is observing the meeting as part of sociology class assignment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned, (H. Filloramo), seconded, (A. Nickerson), and passed by those present to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Our 2009 Season of Sharing went better than expected. Although the amount of donations was smaller than in previous years, the number of donors increased. We were able to provide 98 households with food baskets or gift cards for Thanksgiving and 102 individuals/ families received gifts and supermarket gift cards for Christmas. Cindy Boscarino and Felicia LaPlante, department secretaries are responsible for the seamless operation of this program. Through the holiday program we were able to generate a master food bank list. Currently that list has names of more than 56 households. In November the cub scouts' community food drive and the Windermere School food drive along with civic and social groups filled our shelves to the brim. The overflow of canned goods have been boxed and labeled for future use.

Request for heating assistance and housing assistance continues to rise. Since September we have submitted 187 applications for processing. With deep funding cuts to Operation Fuel we are using town funds and tri-tri-town fuel funds more than last year. Households that were eligible for Operation Fuel last year are not eligible this year.

Hockanum Valley Community Council will hold their open house on Tuesday, January 12^h at their new location in Vernon on Naek Road. The Hockanum Valley Dial-A-Ride Program began charging a dollar per ride this month. The donation has been received favorably by riders. Each town has created its own program to assist those not able to pay the two dollars round trip.

The town will have an H1N1 Clinic on Wednesday, January 13th at Windermere School. The clinic is open to the public and sponsored by the North Central District Health Department from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS: The car donated by Jack Cohen has finally arrived and is being used by the senior center. We hope to have the new senior van on line before the end of the year. A new car is still needed for elderly outreach.

NEW BUSINESS: The budget guidelines for the 2010-2011 fiscal year have been set by the board of finance. A meeting with staff will be set up to review these guidelines and to discuss their perspective budgets. We expect increases in the senior center budget due to rent increases and a proportional increase in real estate taxes for the plaza.

The AARP Tax Preparation Program will begin on Wednesday, February 3rd to April 14th from 9A.M. to 1P.M. Appointments will be made through the senior center.

Rise Above and other civic groups will sponsor the Fair on the Green this year. Rise above is led by Deb Stauffer and Kathy Larew . The town has been awarded a second five-year prevention grant in the amount of \$320,000 to continue to provide programs and services to reduce underage drinking. The event will include a craft fair, business expo, car show, art show, and Taste of Ellington featuring local eateries.

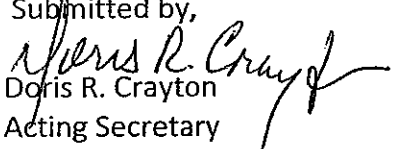
On January 28 at 1:30 P.M. at the senior center TRIAD will present a presentation on what you should know about the US Census.

The Department of Transportation has sent the town the pre-bidding package for the van. There will be a meeting at the end of January, and a 30 minute one on one vendor meeting in February. It is anticipated that the public works director or his designee will attend this meeting with Erin Graziani and the Human Services Director.

Small Cities has also announced its next round of funding for towns to apply for. Since one of the goals of the commission is to identify housing needs, plans will be made to meet with town stakeholders to discuss additional senior housing and a new senior center.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion, (S. Stack), Seconded, (M. Ferry) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 7:22 P.M.

Submitted by,


Doris R. Crayton
Acting Secretary